



## President's Report: SA Academy of Family Physicians AGM August 2018

Dear Members,

It is my pleasure to give you the President's report at the 2018 AGM of the SA Academy of Family Physicians. The new Academy council took office last year and in December 2017 held a workshop to set goals for the period up to 2020. In my report, I will outline these goals and give feedback on progress made to date.

**Membership of the Academy** has steadily increased over the last few years and now stands at over 500 members. However, in order to fully represent the discipline of family medicine we must continue to increase our membership (the HPCSA register has 1064 family physicians) and provide tangible benefits. Key benefits include delivery of the SA Family Practice Journal, CPD activities to meet all the annual requirements, an annual conference at reduced rates and connectivity to the national and international discipline of family medicine. We have planned an advertising campaign to reach family physicians who are not yet members and we ask all our existing members to promote the Academy to their colleagues.

At last year's conference, a workshop on future scenarios for family medicine in South Africa concluded that the Academy must play a more active role in **advocacy for the discipline**. To help us with this challenge we held a workshop with council to create a systematic advocacy plan for the Academy. This workshop identified 14 different stakeholder groups, which included the department of health at national, provincial and district levels, family physicians and other generalists, professional bodies, the private sector medical aids and funders as well as the general public. We analysed each of these stakeholder groups and planned an approach to advocacy and engagement. Some of these actions include a policy brief for the department of health, editorials in the general media and South African Family Practice Journal as well as a survey of members' needs and expectations.

The **National Education and Training Committee** continues to work on improving the training of family medicine and increasing the pass rate in the national examination. Prof Hannes Steinberg is now chairing this committee and is busy with a review of the national learning outcomes. Prof Hanneke Brits has also taken responsibility for

organizing an annual Training of Clinical Trainers, which is offered to all nine programmes in the country. This aims to improve the quality of clinical training in the workplace and the next course is in February 2019.

Prof Shadrick Mazaza is our **representative at the South African Medical Association** and he has continued to work tirelessly for the recognition of the scope of practice and remuneration of **family physicians in private practice**. We anticipate good news in this respect in the near future in our negotiations with Discovery Health.

Dr Zelra Malan heads up the **Continuing Professional Development** sub-committee of the Academy and is assisted by Andrew Ross and Bianco Hobson. They continue to accredit CPD applications on behalf of the Academy and are responsible for maintaining standards as per the HPCSA regulations. The number of CPD applications has reduced over the last few years as providers have shifted to more e-learning and fewer face-to-face meetings. One of our goals in the next year is for the Academy to offer more web-based CPD short courses.

Prof Gboyega Ogunbanjo continues as editor of the **South African Family Practice Journal** and we congratulate his team with the registration of the Journal on Medline. This will raise the visibility and profile of the journal internationally and should increase its impact factor. The Journal continues to offer a useful mix of CPD articles, original research, commentary and opinion, as well as the Mastering Your Fellowship section, which has been very valuable for registrars. The journal also provides an opportunity for members to meet their CPD obligations.

In addition to our relationship with SAMA we also have formal **relationships with Rudasa, the College of Family Physicians and the World Organisation of Family Doctors (WONCA)**. Through WONCA we have the opportunity to give input into the new global Astana Declaration on Primary Health Care, which is planned for the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration of Alma Ata later this year. In October this year, WONCA will also have its global conference in Seoul, South Korea. Profs Bob Mash and Gboyega Ogunbanjo will represent the Academy on the WONCA World Council. Prof Bob Mash will also launch a new WONCA book on Primary Care Research Methods, which he has co-edited with the chair of the working party on primary care research, Prof Felicity Goodyear-Smith. We also congratulate Prof Shabir Moosa who will become the next president of WONCA Africa in 2019.

**Financially** the Academy is now up to date with its obligations to SARS and in a relatively stable financial situation. Income is mainly from membership fees, CPD

accreditation, conferences as well as royalties on Academy publications such as the Handbook of Family Medicine and the SA Family Practice Manual. We thank Prof Hanneke Brits for continuing to act as treasurer and ensure we meet all our responsibilities. The SA Police Services did not pursue the criminal charges that we laid against former employees of the Academy for fraud and the Academy Exco has decided not to take further action. If the charges are pursued further then we would not recover any money, but would incur significant additional expenses.

Finally I would like to thank Dr Sam Agbo, our secretary, and Prof Frederick Mayanja who have also been active members of the executive and Ms Joleta Van Wyk our administrator.

I am grateful to Prof Derek Hellenberg and his team for organizing this year's **National Family Practitioners Conference** and to Prof Richard Cooke and Olu Omole from the University of Witwatersrand for agreeing to organize next year's conference in Johannesburg.

In conclusion, I thank you for the opportunity to serve as President of the Academy.

**Prof Bob Mash**

**President: SA Academy of Family Physicians**